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Chapter 1: Should I?

(Yes, from this chapter on I have made them...Er...Slightly more readable. So, hooray. I am disturbed with myself after reading this back and discovering I had used the wrong 'your' when I should've used 'you're'. 😐)

Rainkit lay down on the moss bed restlessly; he hadn't opened his eyes yet, and his mother seemed concerned.

"Is he going to be alright?" His mother asked, by the paw steps on the floor he heard her pacing. "Of course, he'll be alright!" snapped a voice, which sounded like she-cats.

"He was just born! Give him a rest. He'll be fine," said the she-cat voice with slight annoyance.

"But," his mother started, "just lie down; he's probably going to open his eyes tomorrow!" The voice snapped impatiently.

With grumbles, his mother licked him on the head, and he purred. "Don't worry, my little teardrop, Milkweed's news will hopefully come true..." his mother purred, resting her head on his.

A furball pushed its way between him and his mother.

"Is it awake yet?" said a restless tom voice. "Of course he is, now go away and stop pestering your brother," snapped his mother.

He heard rustling, and the soft body of his mother lay beside him. "I want to meet him!" Whined the tom voice.

"Give Featherfire some rest; she's had a long day kitting that one," said Milkweed brushing something along leaves on the floor.

"Fineeeee." Growled the tom's voice, stomping away angrily.

A few moons had passed since he was kitted. His mother talked to him all the time, telling him his so-called brother's name, Bouncekit; he knew her name was Featherfire, but she had told him, anyway. And at last, she told him his father's name. Braveflame.

He thought that was a nice name, he wished he had it instead of Rainkit though... He always thought of fantasies being named 'BraveKit.' it was fun to imagine, but what always bothered his imagining was that his mother always begged him to open his eyes. But whenever he tried, he felt a sort of...wrongness to it, like he shouldn't open his eyes.

Today was no different, or so he thought... it had started normally as his brother bounced in with the crumple of leaves and the squashing of moss. "Rainkit! I have a good feeling about today!" He heard Bouncekit say with excitement in his voice.

"You're pestering Rainkit again! Shoo, shoo!" growled his mother's voice. "But-" Bouncekit started before stopping; "Okay..." he heard his mother's tail brush the floor. And her fur on his as she lay down beside him.

Did BounceKit really do anything wrong? He wondered.

His mother licked the top of his head before speaking, "BounceKit is just excited, he hoped you'd open your eyes today." His mother said wistfully.

He was sick of hearing complaints about opening his eyes, so he took in a deep, tortured breath and tried to open his eyes... he couldn't seem to open them, he and felt panic tingle in his fur, *how does any cat open their eyes?* He thought, grumbling.

When he found the right muscle, he felt his uncomfortable eyelids open. He could see only blackness and tilted his head. Did he open his eyes? Or did he find the wrong muscle? It felt exactly the same! What a bummer.

He heard a gasp that sounded like his mother's, and he looked at where he thought the voice was.

Chapter 2: Are they open?- wait no close them!

He mewed a greeting to his mother, and then he heard the squashing of moss and the padding of paws running away.

His ears flattened, was he really that ugly to his mother? Or did she not like the way his eyes looked? Or maybe it was that he could only see blackness, like when his eyes were closed, but how would she be able to?

He sat down trying to find a way around the nursery. He opened his mouth to breathe in some scents, but the scents burst into him and he choked on them, his eyes watering.

These scents were..wonderful! Absolutely wonderful! He could smell frogs and other prey that his mother hadn't told him about. He squeaked a yip of hooray and started to take in some more scents.

It didn't burst in like last time but it still gave him a shock to breathe them all in again. He smelled wet moss and cats..other cats!

His joy was broke off by the scent of cats getting closer. He cowered in his moss bed as he heard paw steps, he couldn't understand why he was cowering, it just felt right.

then he heard mumbling and the pawsteps reached the den. The crunching of leaves got louder as he heard them.

Then he could scent three cats who had come in the den and his mother began talking. "He's in the moss bed, Milkweed," Said his mother with a tint of anger and sadness in her voice, but she also had something different, it was like RainKit was looking inside her, and feeling very intense emotions that made him want to burst with anger.

He heard the voice of a tom and guessed it was his father. He couldn't wait to meet his wonderful father Braveflame! "I'll take a look at him, sit beside him and calm him down if he needs." Said Milkweed's urgent voice. "I'm not sitting beside that *thing!*" Said his mother loudly and harshly.

His eyes glistened with hurt at his mother's words and he felt a pit in his stomach and wanted to cry.

He heard the pawsteps of Bouncekit and he lay down, worrying his brother would hate him too. "I'll sit beside him." Said his father's voice, with no hint of emotion in it.

He felt his fur brush Braveflame's and he bristled, all he got was a grunt from his father and Milkweed touched his fur, he guessed she had began to scan him. "What's wrong with Rainkit?" Said an innocent voice. He buried his head in his paws.

The nursery was quiet, until Featherflame spoke. "Nothing, now go outside, I'll attend to you soon" She snapped, but her voice was soft.

"No! I won't leave Rainkit till I know he's okay!" Said his brother loyally, the crunching of leaves and squishing of moss continued until he felt his brother's fur against his, he felt this deep hole inside him, emotions were bursting through him, and they didnt feel like *his* emotions, or what he was feeling!

He could tell his mother's burning gaze was on him and his brother and he shrunk, forgetting all about the confusing emotions.

Her gaze then lifted as something happened. "He's just blind..that's all, not a big deal." Said Milkweed calmly. "WHAT!?" Screamed Featherflame, he felt his father's body tense and lift from his, padding over to his mate's side with a crunch of leaves and the squashing of moss.

What have I done? he wondered hopelessly.

Chapter 3: Wish I could go back in time

"Don't worry little brother," whispered Bouncekit. He wished he wouldn't worry, but he couldn't stop worrying about what would happen! It comforted him little, oh how he wished he could go back in time!

He nodded slowly, but his brother noticed his body was still tensed and he said something else. "You know Flamefeather and Braveflame are picky! They couldn't even pick a single thing out of the prey pile yesterday because of that!"

He remembered that time when Flamefeather came back into the nursery with empty paws, telling him and Bouncekit what happened. His body started to calm and he put his head on his paws, he still felt like a wallowing pit though, feeling an endless amount of loyalty and anger at the same time it made him have a headache.

With more murmuring, Milkweed spoke to his mother Flamefeather. "It's not his fault, don't blame Rainkit for what happened," Milkweed spoke wisely. His mother let out a hiss, and the anger seeme to multiply in his head.

He heard the shuffle of leaves and the woosh of air that went past his face as a big *thump* hit the ground. "Don't touch them, they did nothing wrong to you!" Hissed Milkweed's voice, "What happened?" He whispered to Bouncekit, he felt his heart beating in his ears now, and the tips getting hot.

"F-Flamefeather almost p-pounced on us with her claws unsheathed.." said Bouncekit shakily as his mother hissed at the medicine cat, the anger grew intensely fast, and he just assumed that it was his fear taking over his *own* emotions.

He gulped...he did not like the look of where this was going, "We

should get rid of that thing, we have no use for a blind cat." Said his father harshly. He realized he wasn't joking and looked down at his paws. Burying his head in between them, and wished so desperately for disappearance.

"It's lucky it doesn't need milk anymore because I'm not feeding it!" Gasped his mother harshly, her tail flicking something across the cave floor as it batted up wind. "Then leave." Growled the medicine cat.

He heard the padding of paws and crunching and squashing of moss, and two glares on him while leaving the nursery.

He lifted his head and opened his mouth to see if they were still in there, the scents making him cringe, but then he sighed in relief as they left. "I've...never seen them like this..." said his brother apologetically. He nodded. "It's...alright." he choked out the words like he never said anything before.

"Wow, you just talked, well there's a first for everything right?" His brother joked trying to obviously lighten the mood. He purred in agreement, Maybe everything was going to be alright, as long as BounceKit was here. *How could I have thought he was annoying once?* He thought judgmentally to himself.

His brother stopped laughing and he tilted his head. "Rainkit, I promise that I'll protect you no matter what." RainKit drew in a sharp breath.

"No, you don't have to do that Bouncekit-" he said with wide eyes but was interrupted by Bouncekit. "No, I'll do whatever it takes, even at the cost of my life." He could tell those words were heartfelt and he meant them.

He sighed, knowing he couldn't stop his brother from not making that promise. "Goodnight Bouncekit..." he yawned. "There's nothing wrong with you, Rainkit." He heard Bouncekit whisper, before he dozed to sleep.

A paw prodded him awake and he jumped up, hissing and spitting.

"Whoa, whoa, it's just me!" Said Bouncekit, obviously alarmed. "Oh, sorry..." RainKit mumbled. "Why'd you wake me up, anyway?"

"Because Gorsestar just called a meeting, he said it was about *you.*" he drew in a sharp breath and spoke, "Let's go see what it's about then," RainKit said shakily.

Chapter 4: A new name?

He raced out of the nursery in panic- or tried to as he bumped into a wall. He sneezed as his brother walked up beside him with the crunching of leaves.

"Could you, help me out?" RainKit said with flattened ears. "Of course!" His brother said cheerily, putting his tail tip on RainKit's shoulder as they walked forward and out of the nursery.

He could tell many stares were on him, but the worst ones were the *glares*... he could feel them seeping into his skin whenever he was under a glare. A stare was less worse but still held the same purpose.

Bouncekit stopped walking and he sensed he sat down, so he did as well. "A special request has been made by Flamefeather." Said Gorsestar regally, he felt his stare on him and he flattened his ears uncomfortably, what did his mother do to make his life worse?

"She has requested a new name for Rainkit, the name she requested was Blindkit." Said Gorsestar, emotion not pricking his sentence he sounded quite neutral. "No!" Screeched Bouncekit's voice, and RainKit felt a surge of fear pumping from the pit of his stomach.

"What now little kit? Come to save your brother?" Snickered Gorsestar, BlindKit could just *feel* like GorseStar's accusing gaze looked into his innocent brothers eyes. "Yes! I will take my brother's name if he...he can keep his!" He didn't know, but he knew Gorsestar, and he knew he would arch his eyebrows in surprise at this.

"I have things to follow, Flamefeather wants that one to be named Blindkit, and I will follow what my clan wants to make them happy." Hissed Gorsestar, a big wave of wind washed over him and leaves crunched on the ground.

Bouncekit was in trouble, he tried looking around in dismay, but it

was too late. Gorsestar swiped at the tiny kit and he was sent flying into Rainkit with matching oofs.

Flamefeather called out in dismay and ran over to her kit in a crunch of leaves. She pushed him aside with no carefulness at all and he heard her grooming Bouncekit while steadily glaring at him and probably Gorsestar.

"Anyways," continued Gorsestar coldly "this kit shall be renamed Blindkit, for the blind eyes he holds." the camp uproared in agreement and he shrunk in shame. He would be known as *Blindkit* for the rest of his miserable life.

He heard the crunch of leaves as a tired kit ran over to him and bowled him over. "Bouncekit!" He cried happily "It's me! Flamefeather took me away after stupid Gorsestar took me down! But you got to keep your name right?" He said hopefully.

I wish he grumbled in his mind, but instead said "No...he changed my name anyways, he's cold-blooded like all the flea-bitten cats here." He sensed the hurt look in his brother's eyes and quickly said, "Except for you and me of course." He sensed his brother perk up.

He heard the paw steps of his cursed mother coming to get Bouncekit. He ran in front of Bouncekit before his mother could get him, finally getting some basic maneuvers right. "You can't take him! I won't let you!" He hissed at his mother.

She backpedalled in a maneuver of leaves and she hissed at him "Get out of here you little rat, I have to get my *only* kit away from you fast so he doesn't catch your filthy disease!" He flinched back hurt, and he felt Bouncekit rear away from him quickly.

"Don't talk to him that way! If he's not your kit then I'm not either!" Said Bouncekit loyally. He shrunk back, letting Bouncekit take the lead. Flamefeather backed away slowly with a crunch of leaves and hissed running back to her mate.

"Thanks..." he mewed shyly to Bouncekit. "I made a promise, didn't I? I promised I never would let anybody hurt you! And I'm gonna keep it!" Bouncekit gave him the biggest lick on the head and he

purred. "Thank you, Bouncekit."

Chapter 5: I'll try!

It had been moons since BlindKit had been renamed..he could count 5, and the 1 he spent with his eyes closed. He wondered what that meant, his brother padded up to him in the squelching of moss. "Gorsestar said our Apprentice ceremony is tomorrow!" Purred Bouncekit, sitting down with a squash.

"Oh..I don't think I'm ready to be *Blindpaw* yet." He said firmly. Bouncekit shuffled his paws, moving the moss bed that he was on. He heard a big screech that sounded like a bird's. He ran into the bramble wall in shock and Bouncekit put the tip of his tail on Rai-Blindkit's shoulder.

He murmured thanks and they bounded out of the den. He heard the wooshing of wings. *Something's wrong..* he thought worriedly. The screech of a bird came out and he felt a woosh of wind and something ruffled his fur from the other side.

He then heard multiple screams and another scream from closer by, like *above* him. His tail went between his legs and his fur bristled. "What's happening?" He said crouching even lower.

Something pulled on his fur and flung him into the nursery. He crashed into the brambles, gasping in pain as the brambles scraped his skin. He carefully got up, and a *'hoooooot'* came from the outside of the den.

He flinched back, scrabbling to the corner as screams followed the hoots. After a few minutes, the hoots stopped, he pricked his ears just to check, then peeked out of the nursery. Of course, he saw nothing, but he felt the fear of all the cats in camp.

He opened his mouth to smell the air and smelt blood. "B...BounceKit? Where are you?" he said shakily. He heard a groan on the ground and he lowered his head until her could feel his brothers fur, blood-soaked.

"BounceKit! Are you okay?!" he said with wide eyes. All he heard was another low groan. He nudged BounceKits shoulder with his nose urgently. BounceKit let out another groan, weakly pushing BlindKit away.

He sensed MilkWeed, and heard the rushing of her paws as she raced over. She pushed BlindKit away like he wasn't there. He leaped back reluctantly, scraping against the entrance brambles. He could smell MilkWeed's milky scent like the light of day.

"Hey-" he started to protest, but MilkWeed shushed him by flicking her tail over his mouth. He frowned, lashing his tail. Her tail fell off his face, and her scent faded away with the sound of her paws. He took the opportunity to race over back to BounceKit.

Luckily, it was easy, since he could recognize his brother's scent anywhere. He sensed MilkWeed racing back, and a stinging scent coming with her. He flinched back, the tang of the scent stinging his tongue. "get back!" she hissed at him.

"no!" BlindKit growled, he didn't budge. So MilkWeed shoved him away and he let out a surprised squeak, tripping over his paws. MilkWeed applied the stinging scent to BounceKit, their scents mingling.

BlindKit blindly paced behind MilkWeed, sensing her careful movements. *I can't lose the only cat that doesn't hate me! Oh, StarClan help me!* He thought desperately. The pit in his stomach returned, making him want to cry.

"Will...will he be okay?" he stammered, his eyes widened like a fawn. "Yes, just a few scratches where the owl's claws scraped him." MilkWeed confirmed calmly, all scents of fear faded from her fur.

BlindKit dug his claws into the leaves nervously, not very reassured. "Where's...BlindKit?" coughed BounceKits voice, loud and clear. BlindKit was washed with relief. "Here's right here." MilkWeed soothed him.

MilkWeed's tail guided him over. *Oh, now you want me close to him?* He thought bitterly but went with MilkWeed. BounceKit was on his

feet, BlindKit sensed he was a bit drowsy. "That hurt...what happened?" BounceKit mewed.

BlindKit opened and closed his mouth, trying to process what had happened and then apply it to a story. MilkWeed answered for him. "An owl swooped into camp, it grazed you with its talons, BraveFlame caught it by its wing but it got away," explained MilkWeed briskly.

BounceKit regarded the explanation for a few moments. "I pushed BlindKit out of the way before the owl got him, that's all I remember," BounceKit admitted. MilkWeed nodded. "That's all I needed." she mewed.

BlindKit smelled the sharp tang of blood, but not from BounceKit, whose scent was only strange tangy scents. He leaped to his paws. "Someone else is hurt." he blurted, his eyes widening to fawn eyes again.

He sensed MilkWeed lift her muzzle. "Your right," she mumbled, "how could I miss that?" "that doesn't matter! Go help!" he protested, bristling. MilkWeed shuffled, then he heard her racing away, taking her milky scent with her.

"Who's...hurt?" BounceKit whispered. BlindKit had almost forgotten he was there. "I don't know, can you see anything?" he asked miserably. He **hated** smelling things a little too strongly, they made him feel like he was reading someone's mind.

"Well, the whole clan is gathered around something, murmuring and crying, does that help?" BounceKit asked, he could feel his mood shifting to uneasiness. "Can you see what they're gathered around?" he pushed.

A few moments passed, then, suddenly, BounceKits mood changed to raw fear.

Chapter 6: It can't be true!

"what? What is it?" he hissed, his mood soured to fear and anger. "BlindKit...oh BlindKit..." BounceKit sobbed. Without knowing what he was doing, he walked over to his brother's scent and felt BounceKits fur brush his.

"What is it?" he asked again. He felt BounceKits mood change to grief and sadness. "It's BraveFlame! He's in the middle!" Sobbed BounceKit. BlindKits blood ran cold. "Are you...sure?" he asked, his voice wavering with emotion.

"Yes, I am! I can see his black pelt.." sniffed BounceKit. *Why am I so emotional about this? My father never cared for me.* He thought, but that didn't distract him from his grief. "Let's go inside the nursery.." he murmured.

At least a week had passed since the owl came by, and BlindKit and BounceKit's ceremony was delayed because of BounceKits injuries *of course they didn't bother to acknowledge me.* He thought angrily, stomping his foot with a *squelch*.

And, BounceKit's observation seemed to be true. BraveFlame was injured badly after the owl went away, because it came back. FeatherFire claimed to have seen it. She explained the story with full detail...

'I was trying to drag down the owl with BraveFlame. But it shook us off, and flew away. BraveFlame smiled at me, giving me a lick on my head. He told me to go and help MilkWeed pick out the injured cats and help them. I reluctantly agreed, and that was the biggest mistake I had ever made...once I was helping MilkWeed, I looked over at him. His was grappling with the owl, it ripped his belly open like he was a piece of prey.' FeatherFlame had paused to shudder. 'then, it pecked one of his eyes! Luckily, I didn't see if it came out or not...but he convulsed and tried to claw the owl. I was frozen with fear, MilkWeed tried to shake me awake. She gave up though and leaped at the owl, scaring it away

for good. That's when everyone....everyone...' FeatherFlame started to sob, her emotions spiralling.

BlindKit shuddered, trying not to imagine the horrors of watching his father's belly get ripped open. Instead, he went to check on BounceKit in the medicine den. Luckily, these past moons, he tried to memorize the map of camp, and succeeded.

He *smush splash sploshed* and *crunch crush cruuuunched* across the ground, a familiar path to the medicine den. *Then im going the right way.* He thought proud of his mapping skills. He smelt the tangy scent of *herbs* and MilkWeed's milky scent...and of course, his brother's sweet scent that smelled of freshly killed mouse.

Finally, the tangy scent of the herbs on BounceKit has receded. He thought, trying not to remember the scent. He ducked into the underground den. "Welcome BlindKit." MilkWeed mewed immediately, and BlindKit jumped.

"Stop **doing** that," he grumbled, bristling. MilkWeed let out a velvety laugh that made BlindKit flush. He pushed his way past her with a huff. "BlindKit! You came to visit!" came BounceKit's hopeful voice.

BlindKit couldn't help but smile. "yeah, don't I always?" he joked. He felt BounceKit's mood brighten. "so, what have you been doing?" he asked, letting himself be guided by MilkWeed's tail to a moss nest next to BounceKit. He squashed down on the moss.

"Well...I've been watching BraveFlame lately, he screams in his sleep a lot about 'the owls are coming!' and other nonsense.." BounceKit mumbled uncomfortably. His mood changed, but BlindKit couldn't identify the emotion.

"he's..okay though, right? Right MilkWeed?" he asked hotly, his eyes wide. It felt like he was talking to two cats at once. "yes." BounceKit and MilkWeed both said at the same time. BlindKit blinked uncertainly...

There is something going on with BraveFlame...but what is it?

Chapter 7: MoodWalking

He got to his paws, "well, nice visiting BounceKit! Do you leave the medicine den tomorrow?" he changed the subject quickly. "yeah, I think so. Do I, MilkWeed?" BounceKit asked innocently. "Hm, I-" but MilkWeed's velvety voice was drowned out suddenly.

BraveFlame's mood changed to raw fear.

BlindKit flinched back, and the words bit into his skull and caused agony to course through his head. *"IT'S COMING! IM NEXT, IT'S COMING!"* screamed BraveFlames voice from inside his head. No mood had been so strong, that words would split through...never, that's never happened.

But his thoughts were dragged down by the agony in his head, he fell into a crouch with strangled screams and wails. He felt MilkWeed and BounceKits' fear, they bashed his skull like a rock. He could hear the screams coming from BraveFlame too.

"IM GOING TO DIE! IT'S GOING TO KILL ME!" screamed BraveFlame's voice inside his head. He let out louder screams of agony, then, he heard the faint...just barely heard, voices of MilkWeed and BounceKit who were close to him now.

"What's wrong with them?" wailed BounceKit. "Please help them! They're in pain!" he sobbed. MilkWeeds' usually velvety and calm voice was layered with fear. "I- stay here." MilkWeed hissed, then he sensed her whisk away.

"ITSCOMINGTOKILLMEKILLKILLKILLKILL!" Screamed BraveFlame's voice again, then with agonizing screams like he was being cut open. He could feel BraveFlame's fear mixed with his own. It was like being bashed in the head with a boulder, and he screeched, falling down into the darkness below.

BlindKit woke with a groan, his head ached with pain. "BlindKit!"

cried a familiar voice...whos was it again? Oh yeah...BounceKit. *How could I forget my own brother's name?* He thought ruefully. Which made him flinch, wow, he must be damaged his head from the **inside** somehow..

How did he damage his head again.. *I forgot...* He thought. Then, he felt BounceKit bowl into him. "Oh ouch-" he bit back a gasp of pain as his head throbbed. "Sorry! Sorry! You've just been asleep for an hour, I missed you.." BounceKit said, BlindKit could feel his loneliness.

"That long?" he bit his tongue. "Mhm..." he sensed BounceKits head droop. "Better have some catching up to do... don't we?" he smiled warmly, trying to look into BounceKit's eyes. He sensed BounceKit's smile as well. His mood changed to a tinge of sadness. *So a sad smile then hm?* He questioned his brother in his head.

He took in BounceKit's scent. His belly growled when he smelt BounceKit's fresh-killed mouse scent. "Hungry?" BounceKit let out a tinkly laugh. He flushed. "Yeah, I guess.." he mumbled, embarrassed.

BounceKit helped him to his feet, and the throbbing in his head ebbed a little at his kin's touch. He smiled gratefully. BounceKit put his tail on BlindKit's shoulder, and led him away.

When he was done eating, he remembered MilkWeed's words on their way out. *"You should take a dose of poppy seeds- at least 2- every day for a week or two! The pain in your head should be gone by then." MilkWeed had concluded.* He fidgeted with the poppy seeds he had.

Trying to remember why he had passed out, he asked BounceKit for details. "Well, you asked when I was going to leave the medicine den, I told you soon, and asked MilkWeed. Then, you started to scream, and crouched to the floor, BraveFlame started screaming too.."

BounceKit paused, taking in a deep breath, he could feel BounceKit was uneasy and was engulfed with fear. "I asked you what was

wrong a lot of times, but you kept screaming and wailing. I told MilkWeed, 'they're in pain! Help them!' and 'What's wrong with them?'" BounceKit stopped and took a shaky breath.

"She said that I would wait there while she got poppy seeds, and I did. But then, you screamed even louder...it felt scary, like you were being **cut open.** Then...you fell unconscious.." BounceKits' voice was wavering with emotion, and BlindKit could tell he was holding back tears.

BlindKit felt his memories reopening...

"IT'S COMING! IM NEXT, IT'S COMING!" screamed BraveFlames voice from inside his head. No mood had been so strong, that words would split through...never, that's never happened. But his thoughts were dragged down by the agony in his head, he fell into a crouch with strangled screams and wails. He felt MilkWeed and BounceKits' fear, they bashed his skull like a rock. He could hear the screams coming from BraveFlame too. "IM GOING TO DIE! IT'S GOING TO KILL ME!" screamed BraveFlame's voice inside his head. He let out louder screams of agony, then, he heard the faint...just barely heard, voices of MilkWeed and BounceKit who were close to him now. "What's wrong with them?" wailed BounceKit. "Please help them! They're in pain!" he sobbed. MilkWeeds' usually velvety and calm voice was layered with fear. "I- stay here." MilkWeed hissed, then he sensed her whisk away. "ITSCOMINGTOKILLMEKILLKILLKILLKILL!" Screamed BraveFlame's voice again, then with agonizing screams like he was being CUT OPEN. He could feel BraveFlame's fear mixed with his own. It was like being bashed in the head with a boulder

He held back a gasp, his blind eyes widening. He felt BounceKit give him a concerned look. But He tried piecing things together... *BraveFlame was afraid of something in his dream, so afraid, that I could hear his desperate screams...i can't read minds though, that's common sense, I can only sense moods, yes.* He thought.

*BraveFlame was obviously in danger...**real** danger, something appeared in his dream... maybe, something that he last saw before he got injured...* Realization hit him like a rock.

*It's because...something is haunting BraveFlame in his dreams, taking the form of the owl and trying to possess his body...my **fathers** body..*

And I was lucky enough to walk in his mood...MoodWalking

Chapter 8: Shouldn’t have happened...

At least another week had passed. BlindKit stretched in his moss nest with a yawn, his brother, BounceKit, murmured a sleepy protest. "hey, you forgetting something?" he nudged his sleepy brother with a paw. "what?" he mumbled.

"today is our apprentice ceremony." he grinned, he sensed his brothers mood change to pure joy and he leaped to his paws with happiness. "wow finally! I thought it'd never happen! We're only 3 weeks older than we need to be!" shouted BounceKit, sadly, awakening FeatherFire.

"What are you two babbling about?!" she growled. "you're not the only cats sleeping here." she muttered. BlindKit took a step back, he could never face his mother's stinging retorts. "we're talking about our apprentice ceremony!" BounceKit announced, not noting his mother's hostility.

BlindKit nodded hastily. He could sense his mother's anger rising. She got to her paws, muttering 'stupid blind kit..' BlindKit bit his lip nervously until FeatherFlame left. He could still feel the hostility in her gaze seeping into his fur...

"Well, you excited?" he sensed his brother's joyfulness again. "Still not sure about being *BlindPaw* yet," he admitted. BounceKit let out one of his tinkly laughs. "You never cease to bring me joy, BlindKit." He sensed his brother's mocking grin.

He snorted. "well I-" but was cut off. "all cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather underneath the high rock for a clan meeting!" he heard GorseStar yowl. He gathered the courage to go to the meeting and felt his brother's tail on his shoulder.

He gave him a weak smile, and they stalked out to the meeting.. GorseStar started. "we are gathered today for two Kits! BlindKit and

BounceKit! You may come forward please!" GorseStar said, his mood seemed neutral. So BlindKit felt less intimidated as he stepped forward with BounceKit.

"BounceKit you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as BouncePaw. Your mentor will be AshFlame." GorseStar flicked his tail, and AshFlames paws sounded and then stopped.

He felt BouncePaw bound away from him, and then presumably, to AshFlame. He sensed the tension as they touched noses. Then, he heard the retreating paws into the crowd. GorseStar's stare turned to him, and he shrunk. *Never mind! I'll just stay BlindKit forever!* He thought desperately.

"BlindKit you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day on, until you receive your warrior name, you will be known as BlindPaw. Your mentor will be SoftSong." GorseStar flicked his tail again, and paws shuffled up, and he guessed it was SoftSong.

He pricked with fear. Where is SoftSong? BlindPaw focused on only the cat scents around him..Dead frog, Brambles, a milky scent, grass...then his nose hit an off scent...it smelt like, fresh water. He hesitantly made his way towards it. Hoping.

He bumped into a cat with soft fur and the fresh water scent. He sensed GorseStar stumble to his paws with surprise. SoftSong felt quite surprised as well, and it faded into respect. He sensed SoftSong get close, then touched his nose.

He felt GorseStar's anger rising.

Uh oh..i hope he doesn't burst in the meeting! He thought fearfully. Luckily, GorseStar didn't. He felt relief as SoftSong guided him away with his fresh water scent.

When he was finished cleaning out the elder's nests, he settled down

in the apprentice's den. Only two other apprentices, without counting BouncePaw, were apprentices. BouncePaw had described them when he was helping. OddPaw is a golden and ginger she-cat with green eyes. And FurzePaw is a white she-cat with golden patches and amber eyes.

He was lost in thought, then, BouncePaw came bounding in the excitement made BlindPaw flinch... Ever since his ceremony, his 'moodwalking' seemed to get stronger. *I wonder how strong it'll get before it stops.*. He wondered warily.

He felt BouncePaw bouncing with excitement. "Looks like you've lived up to your name." he joked. BouncePaw's excitement twisted to joyfulness. He let out a tinkly laugh. "I guess so!" he sensed his brother grin.

BlindPaw shuffled in his nest, an awkward silence went on. "Well...im just bouncing around because I just learned the hunters crouch! I caught a mouse!" he felt the woosh of wind of BouncePaw leaping with joy.

BlindPaw thought. "Congratulations.." he murmured, trying to sound a bit giddy. BouncePaw's mood changed to a tinge of disappointment, then shoved it away. BlindPaw shook his fur before BouncePaw could say anything.

"I think I'll go and eat...nice seeing you BouncePaw." he nodded to his brother. He sensed BouncePaw shift, "yeah, see you." BouncePaw mewed. His mood changed to disappointment with a hint of grief.

BlindPaw hurried away, haunted by BouncePaw's mood. He followed the crunching of leaves, his paws skidding across them. He felt the stares of his clanmates boring into his pelt. The scent of prey hit his nose, and he knew he was near the prey pile.

He padded over, trying to ignore the murmurs and the overwhelming moods. Leaning down, he sniffed, the strong scent of vole, rat, mouse, and frog...he chose the rat, he was always mesmerized by their odd texture.

He bit into it, and sat down next to a log. BlindPaw wolfed it down. *I wonder...why that cat is trying to take BraveFlame's body,* He thought eerily. He pricked his ears, just in case BraveFlame started screaming again...

It hasn't happened now, never. He never screams anymore, he just lies there. He lashed his tail. Then quickly thought *not that I want it to happen again!* He shuddered, the agony in his head was not worth it. Remembering the poppy seeds, he sniffed out MilkWeeds' milky scent.

"MilkWeed?" he called into the medicine den. "Yes?" came her velvety voice, her milky scent was faded in the entranceway, but somehow still fresh. "What about my two poppy seeds? Do you have them?" he hesitantly walked down the path into the den, almost just avoiding a dirt wall.

"oh yes, I'll go get them!" He heard MilkWeed's voice more clearly, and her scent was close. He nodded, sitting down. He felt her getting closer, then shuffling through her herbs. He sensed her grab two small black seeds, then come over to him.

"here, better eat them now." she mewed, he could sense her prodding the seeds closer to him. "Oh well...better get it over with." he shrugged, and he felt her tail guide him down to the seeds. He licked them up.

They tasted like nothing and made the throbbing in his head ease. He murmured how grateful he was to MilkWeed, and followed his scent back up the path. His ears picked something up...it was a deep anger that kept on rising, he thought the cat who held it would combust.

That flea-bitten- he flinched back, was that somecats mind? The one that was angry? *I'll KILL Gorse-* it stopped again. He started to bristle, his eyes widening. Who was this cat that was so angry? *I told him what I wanted! Guess he doesn't want his cat-* he flinched back again, the voice was very loud in his mind.

He gritted his teeth, dragging his paws to the prey pile. It was like the poppy seeds hadn't existed. The anger died down a bit, and the

voice didn't come back. He could finally think about who it could be. *The voice sounded like...FeatherFlame's. Did she try to do something to my ceremony?* He bristled with fear.

He tried pushing back his fear, to reveal courage. *Maybe she's gone to talk to GorseStar...it wouldn't hurt to check his den would it?* He really hoped not but decided to anyways. "Hey, BlindPaw, finished eating?" he heard BouncePaw mew.

He froze halfway to his paws. "Yup, just going to do something," he noted casually. He felt BouncePaw's mood drop to disappointment. "Could I come?" BouncePaw whispered. He froze, "No!" BlindPaw snapped. BouncePaw's mood Bounced to hurt.

Before BlindPaw could be masked with guilt and regret, he hurried away, leaving BouncePaw engulfed with hurt. *Why'd I do that?* He thought regretfully to himself when he was halfway to GorseStar's den.

No time for regrets! This is a time to push ON. He hissed to himself, racing forward to be caught on brambles. He hissed as they scraped against his skin, he pulled, trying to strain his ears. "I told you to make him MILKWEED'S apprentice! Not lousy SoftSong!" he heard his mother's faint voice shout.

GorseStar tried to calm her. "Milkweed wouldn't go with it! She said she'd know when she needed an apprentice! I need to be able to have my medicine cat on my side, trust me." GorseStar hissed, earning a hiss back. BlindPaw pulled harder, the tang of blood hit his nose, and he had tiny bleeding cuts.

"YOU TRUST ONE CAT MORE THAN ME!?" FeatherFire exclaimed. He sensed GorseStar take a surprised step back. He pulled again, and falling free, he crouched low to the ground and strained his ears again. "I didn't say that! I trust my clanmates more than anyone." GorseStar reassured her.

GorseStars' mood was surprised, but it was growing to anger. FeatherFlame was engulfed with anger, but, it started to flicker out. "yes...i guess it wouldn't be your fault that MilkWeed won't take him, im so sorry GorseStar, it's just that my mate is injured and

hasn't woken up, one of my kits are blind.." FeatherFlame let out a strangled breath.

He felt GorseStar put his tail on her shoulder. "it is okay, it's not like I like BlindPaw. It's just like a forced choice. It *shouldn't have happened.*" GorseStar said softly. BlindPaw felt broken, like he was stabbed in the chest with a rock. His ears pushed against his head, and he disappeared into the brambles.

He's right isn't he? I'm just some stupid blind apprentice that has stupid 'moodwalking' powers and enhanced senses... I shouldn't have been born, **I shouldn't have happened...**

Allegiances

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER : GorseStar, A red classic tabby and white tom, with long fur, and hazel eyes.

DEPUTY : MistFleck, A short haired, lilac and cream, classic tortoiseshell she-cat, with amber eyes.

MEDICINE CAT : MilkWeed, a white she-cat with short fur and misty blue eyes.

WARRIORS :

BerryStride, A mostly white, chocolate and red spotted calico-tabby she-cat, with curly fur and hazel eyes.

SootSkip, A mostly white, blue and cream mackerel calico-tabby she-cat, with short fur and yellow eyes.

DeersPatch, A short haired, blue mackerel tabby she-cat, with white socks and copper eyes.

QuietShade, A blue spotted tabby tom, with short fur, and green eyes.

ChestnutBird, A red classic tabby tom, with long fur, and hazel eyes.

StumpyBlaze, A chocolate she-cat, with short fur, and green eyes.

RippleWhisker, A short haired, white tom, with a chocolate spotted tabby tail and ears, and amber eyes.

RunningSnow, A blue and white tom, with short fur, and blue eyes.

EagerWillow, A black tom, with long fur, and green eyes.

PebbleMist, A blue she-cat, with short fur, and green eyes.

MossySkip, A long haired, black and red, spotted tortoiseshell-tabby she-cat, with hazel eyes.

PigeonMist, A black and red, spotted tortoiseshell-tabby she-cat, with short fur, and amber eyes.

FishFeather, A black she-cat, with short fur, and copper eyes

TinyBlossom, A cream mackerel "pseudo-tabby" tom, with a white belly and socks, short fur, and yellow eyes.

BigSun, A long haired, blue and cream, spotted tortoiseshell she-cat, with hazel eyes.

BraveFlame, a tuxedo tom with a flame like marking on his chest. Yellow eyes, and nicked ear.

AshFlame, A black and red classic tortoiseshell-tabby she-cat, with a white locket and gloves, short fur, and green eyes.

SoftSong, A short haired, black mackerel tabby tom, with gold eyes.

APPRENTICES :

OddPaw is a golden and ginger she-cat with green eyes.

FurzePaw is a white she-cat with golden patches and amber eyes.

QUEENS :

FeatherFire, a spotted tabby she-cat with amber eyes. (BraveFlame's kits) BounceKit, a white tom with silver diamond on his head, mittens, tail, and tipped ears with yellow eyes. RainKit, a beige tabby tom with blind eyes.

Hare'sShadow, A curly haired, blue and cream mackerel tortoiseshell she-cat, with a white belly, white socks, and green eyes. (Hare'sShadow's mate, TinyBlossom)

ELDERS :

Doebelly, A long haired, chocolate and red, mackerel tortoiseshell-tabby she-cat, with gold eyes.

Twistedwish, A short haired, red classic tabby and white tom, with blue eyes.

OddLeaf, A red mackerel "pseudo-tabby" she-cat, with short fur, and yellow eyes.

All other clans are unknown to BlindPaw at this moment.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER OF ALL THE CATS IN THIS BOOK! Thank you :D